

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 YAOUND 00546 251211Z

43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-20

DRC-01 /154 W

----- 028360

P R 221640Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2626

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL DOUALA VIA POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 0546

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CM, FR

SUBJECT: FRANCE AND CAMEROON CONCLUDE NEW COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

REF: YAOUNDE 0313 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: FRENCH-CAMEROON COOPERATION AGREEMENTS SIGNED FEB 21 AFTER LENGTHY AND ARDOUS NEGOTIATIONS. NINE AGREEMENTS AND ONE PROTOCOL SIGNED. STILL UNSIGNED--THOUGH THIS FACT UNPUBLICIZED --ARE AGREEMENT ON DOMANIAL PROPERTY AND TAXATION ON WHICH UNRESOLVED DIFFERENCES REMAIN. ALL ISSUES RE ECONOMIC AID, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL, AND MILITARY RELATIONS AND AID APPARENTLY SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED.

2. AFTER FIVE MONTHS INTERMITTENT NEGOTIATIONS WHICH BEGAN IN SEPT 1973, THIRD PHASE WHICH RESUMED IN YAOUNDE FEB 12 CONCLUDED IN SIGNATURE NEW COOPERATION AGREEMENTS FEB 21 BY FRENCH SECSTATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS JEAN-FRANCOIS DENIAU AND GURC FONMIN VINCENT EFON. ACCORDS INCLUDE:
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 YAOUND 00546 251211Z

(1) GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN MATTERS OF PERSONNEL;
(2) CULTURAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT;
(3) CONSULAR CONVENTION;
(4) ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT;
(5) CONVENTION ORGANIZING RELATIONS BETWEEN FRENCH AND CAMEROONIAN TREASURIES;
(6) AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT;
(7) MILITARY COOPERATION AGREEMENT;
(8) CONVENTION FIXING RULES AND METHODS OF LOGISTIC SUPPORT TO CAMEROON ARMED FORCES BY FRENCH ARMED FORCES;
(9) AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN MATTERS OF JUSTICE; AND
(10) PROTOCOL ESTABLISHING "GRANDE" FRANCO-CAMEROONIAN COMMISSION.

CONTENTS OF AGREEMENTS NOT YET PUBLICLY DISCLOSED
NOR DO THEY SEEM LIKELY TO BE FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

3. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, NEGOTIATIONS WERE DIFFICULT AND FRENCH CONSIDERED GURC VERY INSISTENT AND TOUGH IN DEMANDS. MOST DIFFERENCES GRADUALLY RESOLVED IN FASHION MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE TO PARTIES AND ALL "COOPERATION AGREEMENTS" CONCLUDED AND SIGNED. BUT ACCORDING RELIABLE FRENCH EMBASSY SOURCE-- AND THIS FACT NOT PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED--TWO AGREEMENTS WHICH NOT REALLY IN REALM OF "COOPERATION" NOT YET CONCLUDED SINCE "TECHNICAL DETAILS" STILL TO BE RESOLVED. THESE PERTAIN TO DOMANIAL PROPERTY AND TAXATION. IT UNCLEAR TO US AT THIS POINT WHETHER OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES ON AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN SATISFACTORILY SETTLED OR MERELY PAPERED OVER AND LEFT FOR FUTURE RESOLUTION.

4. DOMANIAL PROPERTY QUESTION WAS EARLIER REPORTED BY VERY RELIABLE SOURCE TO BE A MAIN POINT CONTROVERSY. PROPERTY AT STAKE BELIEVED INCLUDE INTER ALIA FACILITIES AND STRUCTURES SUCH AS THOSE DOUALA AIRPORT, PASTEUR INSTITUTE, AND ORSTOM IN WHICH FRENCH RIGHT PREVIOUSLY GUARANTEED BY FRANCO-CAMEROONIAN CONVENTION SIGNED JULY 1965 AS EXTENSION ORIGINAL ACCORDS. ON TECHNICAL GROUNDS, FRENCH SEEMINGLY CONTINUE REJECT GURC CONTENTION PRESENT EXERCISE CONCERNS CONCLUSION WHOLLY NEW ACCORDS, NOT REVISION OLD, PRESUMABLY PREFERING BARGAIN ABOUT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 YAOUND 00546 251211Z

SUCH PROPERTIES AS DOMANIAL "OWNERS" AND IN LIEU OF MORE TENUOUS CLAIM ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO CAMEROONIANS'.

5. UNRESOLVED POINTS UNDER RUBRIC "TAXATION" MIGHT INCLUDE CONVERSION PROCEDURES FOR FOREIGN CURRENCIES ENTERING CAMEROON WHICH REPORTEDLY NOW ENABLE FRENCH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TAKE PERCENTAGE GURC FOREIGN AID FROM THIRD PARTIES. (ONE CAMEROONIAN CRITIC OF SYSTEM WHICH GURC REPORTEDLY INSISTS

BE CHANGED HAS TOLD EMBOFF, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT ABOUT 1 BILLION OF TOTAL 18 BILLION FRANCS CFA CREDIT ACCORDED GURC BY CHINA UNDER MARCH 1973 ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT COULD BE SWALLOWED UP BY FRENCH INTERMEDIARIES UNLESS ALTERED).

6. FRENCH SOURCES STATE ALL QUESTIONS RE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL (COST SHARING, CONTROL) SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED. ALSO MILITARY AGREEMENTS SATISFACTORY, WITH MILITARY AID TO CONTINUE AT PREVIOUS LEVELS. APPARENTLY FRENCH NO LONGER HAVE RIGHT OF "FIRST REFUSAL" FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT SUPPLIES, BUT THEY AT LEAST PRETEND THIS NOT A MEANINGFUL LOSS. SMALL FRENCH DETACHMENT TO REMAIN IN DOUALA FOR SUPPORT TO FRENCH FORCES IN CHAD, BUT "UNDER DIFFERENT FORMULA" THAN BEFORE.

7. IF FRENCH SOURCES BEING CANDID, WE MIGHT THUS INFER SEVERAL OTHER POINTS PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT PREOCCUPY FRENCH WERE SOLVED, INCLUDING CONTINUED AUTHORIZATION FRENCH MILITARY OVERFLIGHTS TO NDJAMENA AND ACCEPTABLE NEW FORMULA FOR PROVISION LODGINGS FRENCH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL ("CO-GPEINTS")#AT GURC EXPENSE INSTEAD OF FRENCH AS BEFORE. WHAT IF ANYTHING FRENCH HAD TO GIVE NOT DIVULGED. FURTHER INFORMATION ON AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT WHICH REPORTEDLY SIGNED MIGHT BE OF SPECIAL INTEREST AS GURC SAID BY ONE FRENCH SOURCE TO SEEK RIGHTS FOR CAMAIR TRANSPORT ALL FRENCH COOPERANCES TO/FROM CAMEROON AND PROBABLY OTHER TRANSIT RIGHTS NDJAMENA AND BANGUI, WHICH CAMAIR ALSO SERVES.

8. COMMENT: CAMEROONIAN MEDIA IN LAST FEW DAYS HAVE STRESSED GURC MAINTAINED SECRECY DURING NEGOTIATIONS IN ORDER AVOID INTOXICATING ATMOSPHERE. OTHER SOURCES CLOSE TO FRENCH CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 YAOUND 00546 251211Z

SUGGEST THEY TOO HAVE URGENT INTEREST NOT LET CAT OUT OF BAG LEST OTHER AFRICAN COOPERATION PARTNERS BE OFFENDED OR HAVE APPETITES WHETTED BY HOW FAR FRENCH WENT TO ACCOMODATE CAMEROONIAN ADAMANCY. FACT CAMEROONIAN MEDIA ALSO EMPHASIZE TALKS HAVE PRODUCED WHOLLY NEW AGREEMENTS, NOT REVISION OR READJUSTMENT, DOUBTLESS DISTRESSING TO FRENCH IF, AS WOULD APPEAR, ISSUE "DOMANIAL RIGHTS" WHICH HANGS ON THAT POINT NOT YET IN FACT RESOLVED. IN ANY EVENT BOTH PARTIES BY SIGNATURE NEW ACCORDS SEEM TO WISH SIGNAL THEIR "AGREEMENT TO AGREE AT LEAST EVENTUALLY" AS ONE GURC-CONNECTED OBSERVER TOLD EMBOFF. APPEARANCE OF AGREEMENT WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY PRESUMABLY SERVES POLITICAL-ECONOMIC INTEREST BOTH PARTIES AFTER EXCEPTIONALLY LONG AND HARD-FOUGHT NEGOTIATIONS. BOTH EFON AND DENIAU MADE POSITIVE STATEMENTS AT SIGNING CEREMONY ABOUT GOOD PORTENTS FOR FUTURE

RELATIONS WHILE PROTOCOL ESTABLISHING NEW "FRANCO-CAMEROONIAN COMMISSION" PRESUMABLY OFFERS VEHICLE FOR FUTURE CONSULTATIONS TO HAMMER OUT DEFINITIVE AGREEMENT ON POINTS LEFT PENDING. ONE ESPECIALLY UPBEAT POINT MADE BY DENIAU WAS THAT FRENCH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE TO CAMEROON IN 1973 SURPASSED 7 BILLION FRANCS CFA (\$28 MILLION).
MOORE

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED. WILL BE SERVICED ON REQUEST.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, TREATY SIGNATURE, ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS, AVIATION AGREEMENTS, CONSULAR AGREEMENTS, MILITARY AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: rowelle0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974YAOUND00546
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: YAOUNDE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740214/aaaaamyr.tel
Line Count: 178
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: YAOUNDE 0313 AND PREVIOUS
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: rowelle0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <30-Sep-2002 by rowelle0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRANCE AND CAMEROON CONCLUDE NEW COOPERATION AGREEMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, MASS, CM, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005